

**2021-  
2022**

**Salt Lake City Clinical Psychology  
Postdoctoral Fellowship:  
Addiction Treatment Track**

George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center  
2019-2020

# SALT LAKE CITY CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: ADDICTION TREATMENT TRACK



George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs  
Salt Lake City Health Care System  
Primary Care Behavioral Health Service, (111BH)  
500 Foothill Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84148  
(801) 582-1565

**Application Due Date: January 1, 2021**

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## VA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ADDICTION TREATMENT SALT LAKE CITY VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Applications are currently being accepted for the APA accredited Salt Lake VA Healthcare System Postdoctoral Psychology Fellowship Addiction Treatment Track. The fellowship year begins August 30, 2021. This is a one-year fellowship and will be primarily clinical in nature, providing training in Addiction Treatment in inpatient, residential, and outpatient hospital settings. The primary goal of this fellowship is to train psychologists to effectively partner with treatment teams and veterans to develop and implement a collaborative and coordinated approach to addiction recovery.

Fellows will work with multiple healthcare teams comprised of physicians, psychologists, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, addiction therapists, etc. to provide assessment, brief and longer-term individual therapy, consultation, and group therapy. Fellows have the opportunity to learn alongside residents and trainees from psychology as well as other disciplines in hospital settings and interprofessional seminars. The mission of the fellowship is to train clinical psychology postdoctoral fellows to be future psychologists who are especially equipped to work within the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in clinical, and leadership roles.

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## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP TRAINING DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Prospective Postdoctoral Fellowship Applicant:

We appreciate your interest in the Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Salt Lake City Health Care System (VASLCHCS). We are very excited to continue offering the track specializing in addiction treatment.

We know the postdoctoral fellow year is a year that often solidifies the next phase in one's career path as an early psychologist. This is a year where one's specialization often takes root. Although this track offers specialized addiction treatment, as you will see in the different training opportunities described later, this track also offers a great deal of general psychology training. Addictions impact many areas of life and in turn impact many areas of treatment throughout the hospital. Most Veterans diagnosed with an addiction disorder are also diagnosed with one or more other co-occurring mental health diagnoses, medical problems, and/or significant psychosocial stressors. Because of this we have relationships throughout the medical center. This includes medical clinics, like acute inpatient medicine, primary care, pain service, and integrative medicine. We have also established many collaborations within other mental health clinics, including the PTSD clinical team, general mental health, inpatient psychiatric unit, homeless services, and the Dialectical Behavioral Therapy team. These collaborations and liaison roles provide many opportunities to postdoctoral fellows who complete the addiction treatment track, which in turn can open a variety of career opportunities after the postdoctoral training year both within and outside addiction treatment settings.

The VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System offers excellent postdoctoral training from a community of highly trained and compassionate providers in one of the most beautiful corners of the country. This is a wonderful place to live and work and we look forward to reviewing your application soon.

Sincerely,

Heather Pierson, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Co-Director  
Program Manager, Services for Outpatient Addiction  
Recovery

VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System

[heather.pierson@va.gov](mailto:heather.pierson@va.gov)

## GEORGE E. WAHLEN VETERANS AFFAIRS SALT LAKE CITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is sponsored by the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System (VASLCHCS) located in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The main facility is located on an 81-acre campus adjacent to the Salt Lake City Veterans Affairs Regional Office and the University of Utah. It's a midsized primary and tertiary care facility with 133 beds providing a full range of patient care services. Comprehensive health care is provided through medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.



The VASLCHCS is part of VA Network (VISN) 19, which encompasses the largest geographic area in the 48 contiguous states. We serve an area covering the entire state of Utah, the majority of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Oklahoma, and portions of Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, and North Dakota. We have eleven Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) and two Outreach Clinics in remote areas of Utah, Idaho and Nevada. During fiscal year 2010, the VASLCHCS served 45,289 Veterans in over 500,000 outpatient visits.

In terms of demographics, 94% of the veterans served by VASLCHCS are male; 6% are female. Ninety-one percent identify as Euro-American, 5% as Latino, 2% as African-American, less than 1% as Asian American, and less than 1% as Native American. The socioeconomic statuses of the veterans vary widely.

VASLCHCS is closely affiliated with the University of Utah School of Medicine, located less than one mile away. In addition to this longstanding affiliation, VASLCHCS maintains active affiliations with several other Utah colleges and universities and serves as a training site for students, interns, residents, and fellows from a variety of health care professions. VASLCHCS is also home to the Salt Lake City Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC), Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), the VHA Office of Rural Health Resource Center (RHRC), and the VISN 19 Clinical Resource Center HUB, which provides telehealth primary care and mental health to underserved areas throughout the VISN.

In 2006, VASLCHCS was designated a Level III Polytrauma Center to respond to the needs of Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts who have suffered multiple traumatic injuries, including TBI and PTSD.

Further information about the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is available at <http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov>.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Although officially designated a General Medical and Surgical facility, the VASLCHCS also provides mental health treatment through a variety of inpatient, residential, and outpatient services and programs. The various programs of the Mental Health Services provide comprehensive mental health care by a multidisciplinary staff including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, advanced practice nurses, vocational specialists, addiction therapists, and mental health associates. There are more than 700 admissions per year to the Inpatient Psychiatry Unit, with an average daily census of 18. More than 7,000 unique patients per year are seen on an outpatient or consultation basis by Mental Health Services personnel, resulting in over 50,000 patient contacts.





## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: ADDICTION TREATMENT TRACK

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship is a full-time, 12-month continuous appointment. Fellows devote a minimum of 40 hours per week, to the training program. The usual tour of duty is 8:00 – 4:30 pm, although this schedule adjusts to accommodate evening groups or other program activities. The completion of clinical duties may require working extra hours. The parameters of each training experience are detailed the first week of orientation. Our aim at completion of the fellowship is for fellows to have accrued enough training hours for licensure in any state they may pursue and for board certification should they chose to pursue that in the future. Some states and board certification require completing 2000 postdoctoral training hours with at least 500 in direct clinical care. We provide ample opportunity to meet these hour requirements.

### ACCREDITATION STATUS

The clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship at the VASLCHCS is accredited by the American Psychological Association through 2028. For information regarding APA accreditation of this or other accredited training programs, please contact:

Commission on Accreditation (CoA)  
American Psychological Association  
750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242  
Phone: (202) 336-5979  
FAX: (202) 336-5978

### TRAINING PHILOSOPHY

The Postdoctoral Fellowship ascribes to the practitioner-scholar model of training. As such, the goal of the fellowship program is to train psychologists to function in an informed, competent, independent, and ethical manner across a wide range of health care settings. The program's structure allows for both breadth and depth of clinical experiences, as well as exposure to a variety of intervention approaches and professional issues. Fellows are here for training and professional development, not service delivery; consequently, didactics, training seminars, and any other educational activities take priority in a fellow's schedule.

### FELLOWSHIP GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

This clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship provides advanced interdisciplinary education and training across a variety of medical settings for the purpose of training future psychologists who are capable of providing the next generation of psychological services within Veterans Affairs. Even though this is classified as a general *clinical* fellowship training, this program emphasizes the provision of addiction treatment services to veterans.

Within this goal, there are several training objectives:

*1. ASSESSMENT*

Fellows understand, select, implement, interpret, and integrate effective methods of assessment in veterans accessing mental and medical care services through the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System.

*2. INTERVENTION*

Fellows implement effective psychological interventions in group and individual within the framework of interdisciplinary team involvement.

*3. SUPERVISION AND CONSULTATION*

Fellows develop and deepen their skills in receiving and giving supervision, and providing consultation.

*4. SCHOLARLY INQUIRY*

Fellows demonstrate an ability to access and understand research. Fellows also share their knowledge by conducting professional presentations for psychologist, lay audiences, and other members of the healthcare community.

*5. ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES*

Fellows demonstrate understanding of the organization and mission of psychology within Veterans Affairs. They further exhibit organization, management, and administration skills pertinent to psychological service delivery, training, and research.

*6. INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY*

Fellows demonstrate awareness, sensitivity, and skills in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups and communities who represent various cultural and personal background and characteristics defined broadly and consistent with APA policy.

*7. PROFESSIONALISM*

Fellows demonstrate awareness of their identity as developing psychologists to include professional deportment, self-regulation, integrity, accountability, and adherence to professional conduct, ethics and law, and other standards for providers of psychological services.

**FELLOWSHIP TRAINING EXPERIENCES**

Postdoctoral fellows will train within Addiction Treatment Services (ATS), which has multiple interdisciplinary teams focused on caring for those with addiction and co-occurring mental health, medical, and psychosocial issues. The main focus throughout the fellowship is ensuring experience with the full continuum of care for addictions. Throughout a Veteran's course of treatment, ATS uses a stepped care model. The stepped care model includes increasing and decreasing the level of intensity of care based on the Veteran's needs, and may include any or all of the following: assessment/evaluation, inpatient admission for medically monitored withdrawal, residential rehabilitation program(s), intensive outpatient, and supportive through maintenance outpatient.

Involvement throughout the year will include the intake clinic and care coordination for a subset of Veterans that present for treatment. This allows for the experience of the full range of Veterans that present for addiction treatment and to experience multiple examples of treatment courses through the

stepped model of care. Also throughout the year, the postdoctoral fellow will be involved in leadership opportunities. This may involve leading team meetings, helping to organize the annual team retreats, discussion regarding team dynamics and team building, program evaluation and development, among other possible opportunities that may arise based on interest and experience. Depending upon previous experience and future career goals, the postdoctoral fellow and fellowship co-training director will decide upon specific experiences at the start of the fellowship year. Regardless of specific experiences and supervisors, assessment, care coordination/case management, individual therapy, and group therapy will be part of a postdoctoral fellow's training experience throughout the year and will include a focus on familiarity with the entire continuum of addiction care.

### Specialized Training Opportunities

**Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery (SOAR) Supervised by Heather Pierson, Ph.D., Caitlin MacKay, Psy.D., and/or Susan Murphy, Ph.D.** The SOAR clinic is a truly interdisciplinary team including psychiatrists, an APRN, psychologists, a pharmacist, social workers, RN's, an addiction therapist, and a recreation therapist. We work closely together in support of a recovery model approach to help Veterans achieve a better life, as they define it. We are usually the front door into addiction treatment through our intake assessment clinic and provide a range of services including: group and individual psychotherapy, case management and care coordination, medication assisted therapies and medication management, contingency management, and assessment and referrals. Some team members are involved in some research projects currently including a study examining trauma focused and non-trauma focused therapies on Veterans with co-occurring SUD's and PTSD and another focused on the feasibility and effectiveness of sublocade. A postdoctoral fellow is a fully integrated part of the team when rotating with SOAR and can expect experiences with assessment, group and individual psychotherapy, and care coordination.

**Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP) Supervised by Heather Black, Psy.D. and/or Jacek Brewczynski, Ph.D.** SARRTP is a dynamic environment that presents unique learning opportunities. Residential treatment involves daily clinical opportunities related to maintaining a functional therapeutic milieu consisting of veterans with very different skills and clinical presentations. This environment allows the fellow opportunities to develop experience addressing complex interpersonal dynamics and the use of the therapeutic milieu as a forum for promoting psychosocial recovery. There are two tracks for Veterans: Track A provides SUD treatment over the course of ~5 weeks; Track B provides SUD and PTSD treatment for Veterans with co-occurring military related PTSD, and is ~8 weeks in duration. The fellow will function as an integral part of the interdisciplinary treatment team, and will attend approximately 3 team meetings weekly. Evidence-based practices are used on SARRTP, such as CBT for SUD and PE and CPT for trauma and addictions. This rotation is intended to have some degree of flexibility and allow for customization of experiences depending on fit with overall program requirements.

## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP DIDACTICS

Several hours each month are designated for attendance at required didactic activities. Attendance and participation in these activities takes precedence over service delivery activities or other meetings. In addition to the didactics listed below there are many opportunities for participation in grand rounds, intern presentation series, round tables, and education conference calls.

## PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP SEMINAR SERIES

The Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow Seminar Series is conducted by psychology staff members, other disciplines from the medical center, University of Utah professionals, and community professionals, with topics varying from year to year depending on programmatic issues and postdoctoral fellow needs/interests.

## UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ADDICTION PSYCHIATRY/MEDICINE SEMINAR SERIES

The addiction psychiatry/medicine fellowship series offers many relevant seminar topics and gives an opportunity to interact with psychiatry and medicine fellows receiving advanced training in the treatment of addictions. Psychology fellows are also welcome to give presentations on seminar topics relevant to an interdisciplinary professional group. For example, psychology staff and fellows have presented on psychotherapies for the treatment of addictions and scales used to assess co-occurring issues, like suicidality. The seminar series is held Wednesday afternoons at the University of Utah.

## DIVERSITY DIDACTIC SERIES

Recognizing the need for continuing education and training in the area of multiculturalism and diversity for both psychology staff and trainees, VA training programs have partnered together to develop a Diversity VTEL Seminar Series to increase each site's access to a variety of presenters and presentations focused on the development of cultural competence in working with diverse Veteran populations. The VTEL presentations are directed at the postdoctoral training level and are given by a range of practitioners and researchers employed in a variety of settings throughout the region. Each presentation includes a brief but substantive didactic presentation and embeds opportunities for group discussion among all participating sites throughout the presentation.

## SUPERVISION SEMINAR

This seminar will include readings and discussions highlighting issues in clinical supervision to support the fellow in developing their own identity as a supervisor. Topics include what makes for good supervision, models of supervision, supervisory self-assessment, ethical issues, working with difficulties in supervision, assessing and addressing competencies, and lessons learned. Seminar meets the first Wednesday of the month from 10:00-11:30 (unless otherwise noted).

## PRESENTATIONS

Postdoctoral Fellows have multiple opportunities throughout the year to provide presentations.

### PSYCHOLOGY INTERN PRESENTATION SERIES

Fellows can develop presentation and teaching skills by preparing and delivering an independent seminar for the Psychology Intern Seminar Series.

### PUB CLUB

Pub Club is meant to be a true exchange between postdoctoral fellows. Our hope is that trainees can critically evaluate meaningful or useful readings from psychological literature. Fellows will rotate the selection of an article and meet collaboratively to determine the expectations of Pub Club. More information provided by Dr. Amber Martinson.

### POSTDOCTORAL PROJECT PRESENTATION

Over the course of the year, fellows will engage in a yearlong project (see below). Fellows are responsible for delivering a formal presentation of this project to the Psychology Staff, fellows, and psychology interns.

## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROJECT

Over the course of the training year, fellows will develop or contribute substantially to a yearlong postdoctoral fellowship project. This project should exemplify the use of the Practitioner-Scholar model of psychology and be based on a clinical topic about which you are interested in learning more. Fellows will work with a specific supervisor-mentor for the project and ensure that the project meets the following goals/objectives:

- Is based on research
- Increases your knowledge and expertise in a topic of interest
- Contributes to the knowledge-base and/or improves clinical practice in Addiction Treatment Services.
- Provides you with a foundation and/or skill set that will increase your opportunities for VA employment.

Fellows are responsible for delivering a formal presentation of this project to the Psychology Staff, fellows, and psychology interns. Fellows should be considering topics for the fellowship project early in the training year and have a solid idea of their project within two to three months after starting the fellowship.

## COMPETENCY EVALUATION

Evaluation is an ongoing, continuous, and reciprocal process. The Postdoctoral Training Committee encourages and supports open and thorough communication between supervisors and fellows regarding training needs, objectives, and competencies. In addition, scheduled, formal evaluation processes occur throughout the postdoctoral year.

Evaluation forms used throughout the training year

- Professional Competency Assessment of Fellows
- Fellow Self Evaluation
- Fellowship Presentation Evaluation
- Fellow Evaluation of Training Site
- Fellow Evaluation of Training Supervisors

## PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

The VASLCHCS Psychology Training Programs in accord with the APA Standards of Accreditation uses competency-based evaluation. The VASLCHCS Psychology Fellowship provides training in the following competency domains:

- Research knowledge and use
- Ethical and legal standards
- Individual and cultural diversity
- Professional values, attitudes, and behaviors
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Assessment
- Intervention
- Supervision and consultation

Fellows complete a self-assessment of professional competency across various domains in preparation for planning the fellowship.

## FELLOW RESOURCES

Fellows have their own private offices for use in assessment and psychotherapy. Fellows have access to computers with a Microsoft Office Suite, printer access, and a nationwide integrated electronic medical chart named CPRS. There is also computer support through IRMS. The VA Salt Lake City has a medical library that provides a wide range of psychology, psychiatry, and other journals consistent with the needs of staff and the training program. Fellows have access to the VA library and may access the libraries at the University of Utah by either personal access or inter-library loan. Fellows receive administrative support from administrative support assistants who help fellows with several aspects of the fellowship.

## STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Fellows receive a stipend of \$46,222 paid in equal installments over 26 bi-weekly pay periods. Fellows are not covered by civil service retirement, but are eligible for federal employee group life insurance and health benefits.

Over the course of the year, fellows earn approximately 13 vacation days and 13 sick days, in addition to 10 federal holidays. Fellows who work 40 hours per week can fulfill their commitment and still have time for vacations and sick leave. The VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System's policy on Authorized Leave is consistent with the national standard. You are welcome to discuss this with the Director of Training.

*This document may contain links to sites external to Department of Veterans Affairs.  
VA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of the external linked websites.*

Postdoctoral fellows at the VASLCHCS are provided with all rights, benefits, and responsibilities associated with "Employee" status. As such, they are expected to comply with all medical center policies pertaining to employee behavior, including leave.

Fellows may also apply for limited hourly credit for attendance at national and regional professional meetings and workshops through their primary supervisor and Postdoctoral Training Committee.

#### **DUE PROCESS:**

All trainees are afforded the right to due process in matters of problematic behavior and grievances. Due process documents are a part of the orientation manual and are reviewed during orientation. A copy of our due process policy is available on request.

#### **SELF-DISCLOSURE:**

We do not require trainees to disclose personal information to their clinical supervisors except in cases where personal issues may be adversely affecting a trainee's performance and such information is necessary to address these difficulties.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements for the postdoctoral training program:

1. Completion of doctoral degree, including defense of dissertation, from an APA-accredited doctoral program before the fellowship start date.\*
2. Completion of an APA-accredited psychology internship program before the fellowship start date or another Veterans Affairs Internship that is in process of APA accreditation.\*
3. U.S. citizenship

Those not meeting the eligibility requirements will be notified as soon as possible. Failure to meet the above qualifications prior to the fellowship start date could nullify an offer to a candidate.

Fellows are considered federal employees and, therefore, must meet all federal employee requirements, including a background check, pre-employment physical examination, and drug screening. Other branches of the federal government may also conduct routine background checks at their discretion as well. Official hiring is contingent on meeting all of these federal requirements.

\*If you have not yet completed your internship and degree by the time of the application, the Training Directors of both your doctoral programs and internship must verify that you are expected to complete these requirements prior to the start of the postdoctoral fellowship. Applicants must provide verification of a degree prior to an agreed upon postdoctoral training start date.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Submit the APPIC APPA CAS Online application no later than 5pm on January 1, 2020. Please use the following web address to access the application website:

<https://portal.appicas.org/>

- In the cover letter describe your training goals, how our post doctoral fellowship program will help you achieve those goals, and how your previous training and experiences relevant to the post doc qualify you for this fellowship training. Further, please discuss your general career goals.
- Include a curriculum vitae;
- Include 3 letters of recommendation from faculty members or clinical supervisors who are familiar with your professional development and training. Please include at least one letter from an internship supervisor.
- Include a letter of certification from your Internship Training Director that you are in good standing and they expect you to matriculate on time, in addition to indicating the last day of internship;
- Include a brief statement regarding the status of your dissertation or research project and expected graduation date from your graduate school program;
- Include graduate transcripts.



#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Application materials due: January 1, 2021
- Interviews of candidates: mid to late January to early February
- Offers extended: In coordination with uniform notification dates set by APPIC.

Applicants with questions about the postdoctoral fellowship or about the Salt Lake City VA please contact:

Heather Pierson, Ph.D.  
Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Co-Director  
Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery (116NS)  
VA Salt Lake City Health Care System  
500 Foothill Blvd.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84148  
Phone: (801) 582-1565 (Ext. 4211)  
e-mail: [heather.pierson@va.gov](mailto:heather.pierson@va.gov)

#### APPLICATION EVALUATION

Each set of application materials received by the due date will be reviewed by members of the selection committee. Independent ratings are based on professional training and experiences thus far, writing, and professional letters of recommendation. The selection criteria focus on all aspects of the application materials, with emphasis placed on background training, experience, and an applicant's clear articulation of training goals and professional aspirations, and overall fit.

After an average score is calculated, the selection committee addresses significant discrepancies in scores, and determines the cut-off score to participate in the interview process.

Interviews are typically planned for mid to late January to early February, but this can vary based on the schedules of applicants. In addition to being interviewed by two members of the Selection Committee, applicants will have the opportunity to meet current interns, fellows, and staff members, as well as participate in a tour of the facility. Video or telephone interviews are available for applicants who are unable to attend in person.

Following all interviews, the Selection Committee will meet to identify the top candidate and alternates for the postdoctoral position. These selections are based on an integration of file and interview ratings, with the entire list of interviewees being reviewed to ensure that all candidates have received fair and equal consideration.

The Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Program at VA Salt Lake City Health Care System is a member of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) and will abide by all APPIC guidelines regarding fellowship recruitment and notification procedures.

#### COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The VASLCHCS Psychology Service has made efforts to recruit and maintain a diverse psychology staff in a geographic region with limited ethnic and racial diversity. As such, the Fellowship Program places a high value on attracting a diverse group of trainees and on maintaining an awareness of

diversity issues during the fellowship year. The program appreciates the fact that attracting a diverse group of fellows is important, not only for the fellowship, but for the staff as well.

Throughout the training year, the training program provides various learning activities and trainings that build upon the multicultural competency from graduate training. For example, the training program schedules a number of seminars directly dealing with a variety of diversity topics. We have speakers discuss issues of multicultural competency, religion/spirituality, gender, sexual orientation, culture, and age. The topics vary year to year, in large part due to the requests of the individual training cohort and their needs as determined by the training director.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The VASLCHCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Psychology Service actively supports and is in full compliance with the spirit and principle of Affirmative Action in the recruitment and selection of staff and interns. We provide equal opportunities in employment and training for all qualified persons and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disabilities, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. In accordance with federal government employment regulations, only citizens of the United States are eligible for training positions funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### PRIVACY POLICY:

We collect no personal information from you when you visit our web site.

## ABOUT SALT LAKE CITY AND UTAH

According to the 2012 census, Salt Lake City has a population of 189,000. The surrounding metropolitan area has over 2 million people. Individuals unfamiliar with Salt Lake City and the state of Utah are often quite surprised at the wealth and variety of things to do and see. Salt Lake City is a montage of modern high-rises, commercial centers, unique sightseeing attractions, classic buildings, historic sites, excellent restaurants, and beautiful shopping malls. The city is also home to acclaimed ballet dance companies, the Utah Opera Company, many fine art galleries, and historical and art museums. Professional sports fans enjoy cheering for the Utah Jazz, Utah Grizzlies and Real Salt Lake. During the summer, baseball fans flock to Franklin Covey Field to watch the Salt Lake Bees, the Triple-A affiliate of the Anaheim Angels. Finally, fans of college sports find one of the NCAA's most entertaining and bitter rivalries between the Brigham Young University Cougars and the University of Utah Utes, both of whom are nationally ranked in football.

For the outdoor recreational enthusiast, Utah is truly a paradise. During the winter months, Utah has "The Greatest Snow on Earth." Eleven resorts are within an hour drive of Salt Lake City. During the summer months, Utahans take advantage of over 1,000 lakes, rivers and streams. Sailing, wind surfing, kayaking, rock climbing and mountain biking are extremely popular during the warmer months as well. Utah has five national parks: Arches National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Zion National Park. We're a short drive to Yellowstone and Teton National Park as well.



## TRAINING STAFF

### **Heather Pierson, Ph.D.**

**Training background:** Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno

**Predoctoral Internship:** VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Homeless and Addiction Track

**Current Position:** Program Manager for Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery team; Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Co-Director (Addiction Treatment Track)

**Areas of interest/expertise:** Motivational Interviewing, mindfulness approaches, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, co-occurring disorders, and leadership

Email: [Heather.Pierson@va.gov](mailto:Heather.Pierson@va.gov)

### **Susan Murphy, Ph.D.**

**Training background:** Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin

**Predoctoral Internship:** VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Addiction Treatment Track

**Current Position:** Staff Psychologist, Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery (SOAR)

**Areas of interest/expertise:** Treatment of co-occurring PTSD and SUD; attachment-based psychotherapy; social justice and cultural sensitivity

Email: [Susan.Murphy8@va.gov](mailto:Susan.Murphy8@va.gov)

### **Caitlin Femec MacKay, Psy.D.**

**Training background:** Combined – Integrated Program in Clinical & School Psychology, James Madison University

**Predoctoral Internship:** Riverbend Community Mental Health Center, Adult Integrated Primary Care Track

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** Yale University School of Medicine

**Current Position:** Psychologist with the Services for Outpatient Addiction Recovery team

**Areas of interest/expertise:** Co-occurring disorders, serious mental illness, homelessness, telehealth, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Email: [Caitlin.MacKay@va.gov](mailto:Caitlin.MacKay@va.gov)

### **Stephen R. Sheppard, Ph.D.**

**Training background:** Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City

**Predoctoral Internship:** VA Salt Lake City

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** Rehabilitation Services, University of Utah Health Sciences Center, Salt Lake city

**Current Position:** Program Manager, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP), Salt Lake VAMC

**Areas of interest/expertise:** Substance use disorder rehabilitation, Rehabilitation of Physical and Cognitive Disability, Interpersonal psychology

Email: [stephen.sheppard2@va.gov](mailto:stephen.sheppard2@va.gov)

**Heather Black, PsyD**

**Training background:** PsyD, Azusa Pacific University, California

**Predoctoral Internship:** VA Salt Lake City Health Care System

**Current Position:** Clinical Psychologist for the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Center (Dual Diagnosis PTSD/SUD Track), Intern Supervisor

**Areas of interest/expertise:** Motivational Interviewing, CPT, PE, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and co-occurring disorders

Email: [Heather.Black1@va.gov](mailto:Heather.Black1@va.gov)

**Jacek M Brewczynski, Ph.D.**

**Training background:** Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, University of Detroit, Detroit, MI

**Predoctoral Internship:** James A Haley VAMC, Tampa, FL

**Postdoctoral Fellowship:** George E. Whalen VAMC, Salt Lake City, UT

**Current Position:** SUD-PTSD Specialist at the SLC HCS

**Areas of interest/expertise:** PTSD, Substance Use Disorders, Personality Disorders, Assessment, Evidence Based Treatments, Spirituality

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**Christy Rosner, Ph.D.**

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**Predoctoral Internship:** VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Current Position:** Staff Psychologist, Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP)

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